

DISTRIBUTED PACKET CAPTURE AND AGGREGATION**ABSTRACT**

5 A system is described for monitoring and testing enterprise networks that tend to have
a number of geographically dispersed devices and interconnected sub-networks. The system
includes a plurality of distributed agents to capture packets from a network. The system
further includes an aggregation module coupled to the network to receive and aggregate the
captured packets. During the aggregation process, the aggregation module identifies
duplicate packets that were captured by different agents as an originating packet traverses the
10 network. A display is coupled to the aggregation module, presents the non-duplicate network
packets, giving a user a clear illustration of network activity. For the duplicate packets, the
aggregation module presents a representative packet, such as the originating packet, that may
be expanded by the user to view the details of the duplicate packets.